

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
February 10, 2010  
Room 415, State Capitol Building, State Capitol Complex**

MEMBERS PRESENT:        Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair  
                                 Rep. Kerry W. Gibson, Co-Chair  
                                 Sen. David Hinkins  
                                 Rep. Roger Barrus  
                                 Rep. Jack Draxler  
                                 Rep. James R. Gowans  
                                 Rep. John G. Mathis  
                                 Rep. Michael E. Noel  
                                 Rep. Christine Watkins  
                                 Rep. Bill Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:        Sen. Brent Goodfellow

STAFF:                      Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst  
                                 Linda Service, Committee Secretary

**Note:**    A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Gibson called the meeting to order at 2:09.

**H.B. 323 SITLA Amendments: Rep. Sumsion Presentation**

Rep. Sumsion and Rep. Herrod discussed in detail H. B. 323. The bill appropriates \$3,000,000 from the Land Grant Management Fund to the office of the Attorney General.

Sen. Stowell assumed the Chair.

Kevin Carter, Director, School Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), responded to questions from the committee and expressed concerns regarding the oversight of expenditure of trust revenues. He suggested the bill be amended to provide for involvement of the Board of Trustees in how monies might be spent. John Ferry, Chairman, SITLA Board of Trustees, brought to the attention of committee members the difficulties and risks involved in pursuing litigation. A discussion followed.

**Big Horn Sheep Habitat on Antelope Island: Jim Karpowitz Presentation**

Jim Karpowitz, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, reviewed a slide presentation detailing the history of big horn sheep in Utah and the management program to restore their population. He focused on hunting as one of the tools available to keep herds balanced and healthy and provide revenue for restoration and management programs. He responded to questions from committee members.

Mary Tullius, Director, Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation, introduced Scott Parson, former Chair, and Karl Bentley, current Chair, Board of State Parks. Director Tullius clarified

the position of the Board regarding hunting on Antelope Island. She noted that the policy of the Board has been to manage the herd without a hunt. Karl Bentley and Scott Parson expressed concern regarding opening a hunt for big horn sheep. Jim Karpowitz, Director of the Division of Wildlife Resources, responded to questions.

### **Discussion on Potential Privatization of State Parks**

Mike Styler, Director, Department of Natural Resources, shared his vision for parks with committee members. His focus is to enable the state parks to become less dependent on the General Fund. Mary Tullius commented on Director Styler's vision of being more business conscience. The staff of state parks is continually looking for ways to increase revenue while being aware of limiting competition with private individuals. Sen. Stowell requested that Director Tullius compile a list of parks that could be considered for privatization.

### **Philosophical Discussion on Program Elimination vs. Program Reductions**

Director Styler commented on the possibility of eliminating certain programs in an effort to deal with the budget shortfall. Leonard Blackham, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food, suggested implementing reductions rather than eliminating programs.

### **Federal Funds: Analyst Presentation**

The Analyst presented the federal funds request summary by department for FY 2011: "Natural Resources - Federal Funds" and "Agriculture and Food - Federal Funds". Utah Code states "each legislative appropriations subcommittee shall review the federal funds request summary and may recommend that the agency accept the federal funds or participate in the federal program for the fiscal year under consideration or recommend that the agency not accept the federal funds or not participate in the federal program for the fiscal year under consideration."

### **Intent Language: Analyst Presentation**

The Analyst reviewed the "Legislative Intent Language, Issue Brief" which deals with nonlapsing intent language.

### **Discussion on the Building Blocks**

The Analyst discussed "Funding Increases, 2010 General Session" - a document summarizing building blocks recommended by the Analyst.

### **Discussion on the 5% Reductions for FY 2011**

The Analyst commented on "Proposed 5% Ongoing Budget Reductions, FY 2011" which is based on how the departments have prioritized the reduction items.

**MOTION:** Rep. Gowans moved to adjourn at 4:32 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair

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Rep. Kerry W. Gibson, Co-Chair